



BELMONT LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 23, 2016

MINUTES (Approved at the July 22, 2017 AGM)

Opening remarks from Peter White, BLCA President: Welcome to the members and introduction of the Board: Brian Deas, Evan Meyers, Larry Pick, Donna Peeling, Wendy Vuyk, Greg Alexander and Katherine Deas (absent).

Motion 16-01 to approve Minutes of the 2015 BLCA AGM (Cathy McVey, Steve Earle). Carried.

President's Report – Peter White:

Peter reviewed the highlights of his written report. *Peter's written report is appended to the minutes on page 5, at the end of the formal meeting minutes.*

Peter discussed the repairs made to the Belmont Lake Dam. These repairs have allowed the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) to reduce leakage through the dam and in general have more control over water levels. Peter noted that we are in what appears to be a drought situation, and based on this the CVCA is holding back more water than they usually would at this time of year (+7" / 18cm over summer set level). BLCA appreciates the support given to CVCA by Havelock-Belmont-Methuen township (HBM).

HBM Lakes Association (HBMLA): Peter introduced Mayor Gerow and Councillor Hart Webb and reviewed the highlights of HBM and HBMLA interaction over the year:

HBM Budget: HBM budget discussions take place in November and the HBMLA represents the lake associations at this discussion. The effective tax increase was 6%; HBM had reported at 3% increase, but this was only the increase of the mill rate. HBMLA calculated the effective rate increase to 6.2% when property value increases taken into account. Fully 4.5% if this increases are due to increases to OPP costs.

HBM Council Structure: There was a special council meeting held in Sep 2015 re council structure: Peter explained the basic structure of council, and the proposed structure changes that are under discussion. HBMLA has taken the position to make the following changes: Eliminate the councilor at large position, and increase the township ward councilors to two. HBMLA's case is based on the tax base represented by the township portion of HBM (75% of tax based represented by the township).

HBMLA is also providing feedback to HBM on proposed changes to by-laws related to docks. Peter reviewed the recent meetings and public forums where the public was able to provide feedback on these new by-laws.

A special thank you to Evan Meyers and the Road Reps. We are now up to 34 Road Reps, and Peter extended a special thank-you to this team. Road Reps are key to the ongoing growth of our membership, which over the past five years has

Report from HMB Council – Mayor Ron Gerow

Mayor Gerow also welcomed Councillor Hart Webb. The Mayor noted that we are in very dry conditions, with concerns that we are approaching a Level 2 drought. He also noted that our neighboring watershed (Moir) is considering a Level 3 designation, which would require the townships in the watershed to pass bylaws restricting water use in the township.

The potential for changes to HMB Council's structure was discussed, noting that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are also representatives to HMB on Peterborough Council.

In water structures: The background of this was discussed, noting that a recent Ontario Court judgement has required townships to regulate in-water structures via by-law. HBM as a starting point is proposing that docks over 15m² (162 sq. ft) would require a building permit. The HBM website contains information on the proposed regulations.

Mayor Gerow reviewed some staffing changes in the township office and reported on recent construction on township roads, including upgrades to Round Lake Road and Mile of Memories.

Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA): CVCA board has once again engaged Quinte Conservation with the idea of shared services and cost efficiencies. Thanks to Wayne Alexander for his volunteer time interfacing with CVCA.

Question (Peter White): Where did the 15m² come from: Mayor: This aligns the rules with existing MNR rules that set a 15m² limit before extra permits are required.

Question (floor): Policing costs and services: Looking for an update on alternate police service models that could remove HBM from excessive OPP costs. Mayor: Shared police services are only allowed with jurisdictions where we share a border. Discussion with Peterborough are ongoing. We cannot use Peterborough Police services until Druro-Dummer also agrees to use Peterborough services, to date Druro-Dummer is still using OPP services. Noted that despite the cost issues, OPP Peterborough has made a special focus on maintaining a 74 office complement as a means to ensure the local townships are getting an appropriate level of service.

Question (Mary-Ellen Meyers): Looking for an update on a potential fire ban. Councillor Webb noted that currently there is no ban based on results from soil tests. Reply that concern is high that we could see a large fire as conditions are very dry. Noted that if anyone has a concern about a specific bonfire (size, risk) they should call the fire department as they have power to ask the resident to extinguish the fire.

Comment: Thanks to HBM for upgrades to fire equipment. Upgrades to the fire equipment has resulted in reduced fire insurance costs to waterfront owners.

Question: Increased usage of the Jamboree grounds, concern about sound, frequency of events, use of the lake for bathing. Reply that there is a township by-law regarding special events. Township

continuing to monitor. Comment (Kowalchuk) that use of the beach is still an issue during Jamboree weekend.

Question: Who pays for increase police costs? Reply: Jamboree.

Question: Status of a light pollution by-law? Council has received an official complaint regarding light pollution and is looking at legal avenues to resolve.

Financial Report – Larry Pick

Larry Pick reported that the Association was in good financial shape as shown in the BLCA Fiscal Report presented on the reverse of the Agenda. Discussion of what to do with surplus funds to be discussed later in the agenda.

Motion 16-02: It was moved and seconded that the financial statements for 2015, and the budget for 2016 and 2017 be accepted (Peter White, Ernie Kowalchuk). Carried.

Road Reps, Newsletter, Membership Draw – Evan Meyers

Evan Meyers reported that there are currently 34 road reps, welcomed new road reps and thanked outgoing road reps Barb & Lyle Stricker.

Evan noted that we could use help with the newsletter production, as this task is currently performed by Peter White. We would like to find a new volunteer to take on the management of this task.

A general discussion followed regarding the Road Rep program, ability to check payment status, and the benefits of the social aspect of the Road Rep program.

Parade of Lights – Evan Meyers

This year we are more activity engaged in the Parade of Lights, and we are more actively promoting this event for 2016. Richard Wood has agreed to formally lead the parade.

Water Testing – Wendy Vuyk

BLCA is now set up with a water testing kit, testing total coliform and E.coli. Tests were performed at the entrance to the lake from the North River, Deer River and the S. end of Big Island. Results for Belmont Lake all came in under target. Noted that there are tests supported by FOCA. Donna Peeling is performing the actual testing.

Social Media & Fireworks – Brian Deas on behalf of Katherine Deas

Report appended to minutes.

In addition to the report, it was noted that funding from Canadian Heritage requires the event be held on July 1, so we were not eligible for funding. We will be applying for funding in 2017 as we are planning to hold the event on July 1.

Golf Tournament – Brian Deas

The 2016 BLCA golf tournament held on Salt Creek Golf Links was a great success. Brian expressed his thanks on behalf of the BLCA to organizers Donna Deas and Debbie Howe. This year's tournament will again be held at Salt Creek on August 29, 2017. The cost is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members and includes the golf fee, shared cart, hot lunch and prizes.

Regatta – Greg Alexander

No major changes to report. High-school age volunteers will qualify for a letter supporting their OSSD volunteer hour requirement. Sailboat race on Saturday @ 2PM, contact Wayne Alexander 705-778-7511.

Rock Markers – Greg Alexander

The board thanked Greg Clements for his work on the markers this season. For 2017 there will be replacement of anchor systems and replacement of some of the faded buoys. There will be a short-term increase in rock-marking budget in 2017 and 2018 to account for these additional capital expenditures. Please report any missing or moved markers to Greg Alexander 705-778-1870, Greg Clements, or email to rockhead@blca.ca

BLCA Surplus – Peter White:

Two resolutions were introduced related to the financial strategy of the BLCA:

Resolution 16-03: That BLCA maintain a reserve balance of \$10,000 to be used for future needs that may arise, such as support for specific projects affecting our water levels and water quality. (Peter White / Bill Dimopoulos). **Carried.**

Resolution 16-04: That BLCA continue to provide calendars free of charge with memberships for 2017, and that this practice be reviewed at the AGM in 2017. (Peter White / Steve Earle). **Carried.**

Discussion followed regarding using funds to support firefighting equipment, possibly in conjunction with HBM Fire Dept. BLCA board has taken an action to investigate with the HBM Fire Department. Board directed to also spend some capital on a one-time expense to purchase t-shirts for the BLCA Road Rep team.

Membership Draws – Evan Meyers

Evan spoke to the many excellent prizes provided for the BLCA early membership draws. The names of winners will be published in the next newsletter.

Other Business

Discussion regarding speed limits in our rivers. An idea was put forward to post speed limits at boat launches, entrance to rivers.

Discussion regarding boat noise: Noted that boats with an “offshore” exhaust system must be more than 5 km from shore before opening those systems, therefore they are not usable anywhere on Belmont Lake. HBM noise regulations may also play a role.

Pike Tournament: Results will be posted to Facebook and to our email distribution later in the summer.

Fish stocking: Crowe Lake is being used by MNR as a test location for stocking for the recreational fishery. Results not expected until 2018.

Election of the Board of Directors

The current eight members of the Board will continue to stand. No further nominations were put forward.

Motion 16-05: That nominations be closed and the board continue to stand

The board remains as follows: Greg Alexander, Brian Deas, Katherine Deas, Evan Meyers, Donna Peeling, Larry Pick, Wendy Vuyk, Peter White

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.